

Serial No. 09/544,423

Reply to Office Action of March 24, 2004

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Claims 1-22 (Cancelled)

23. (Currently Amended) A method of repetitively forming a joint between two members during a manufacturing process using a viscous adhesive, said method comprising the steps of:

positioning a first member to be in contact with a second member to form a coach joint during the manufacturing process, wherein the joint is defined by both a coverage portion extending along the first member and a fill portion adjacent the coverage portion and extending along the first member;

depositing the viscous adhesive along up to fifty percent of the coverage portion and up to ten percent of the fill portion to repetitively form the joint between the first member with the second member during the manufacturing process, so that seepage of the adhesive from the joint is a minimum while stress transfer of the joint is a maximum.

24. (Cancelled)

25. (Previously Presented) A method as set forth in claim 23 wherein the joint is a full coach joint.

26. (Previously Presented) A method as set forth in claim 23 wherein the joint is a one-half coach joint.

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Claims 27-30 (Cancelled)

31. (Currently Amended) A method of repetitively forming a joint between two members during a manufacturing process using a viscous adhesive, said method comprising the steps of:

positioning a first member having an arcuate portion to be in contact with a second member to form a coach joint during the manufacturing process, wherein the joint is defined by both a coverage portion extending along the first member from a first point at a first end of the first member to a second point at which the first member begins to curve to form a tangent portion, and a flange fill portion extending from the second point to a line segment that is collinear to the tangent portion;

depositing the viscous adhesive along up to fifty percent of the coverage portion and up to ten percent of the fill portion to repetitively form the joint between the first member with the second member during the manufacturing process, so that seepage of the adhesive from the joint is a minimum while stress transfer is a maximum.

32. (Cancelled)

33. (Previously Presented) A method as set forth in claim 31 wherein the joint is a full coach joint.

34. (Previously Presented) A method as set forth in claim 31 wherein the joint is a one-half coach joint.

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35. (Cancelled)

36. (Currently Amended) A method of repetitively forming a lap joint between two members using a viscous adhesive during a manufacturing process, said method comprising the steps of:

positioning a first generally planar member to overlap a second generally planar member to form a lap joint during the manufacturing process, wherein the joint includes a coverage portion defined by a length of overlap between the first member and the second member; and

depositing the viscous adhesive at a center point for the coverage length and applying the adhesive between fifty to seventy-five percent of the coverage portion, so that it is equidistant from the center point, to repetitively interconnect the first member and the second member for each joint during the manufacturing process, so that seepage of the adhesive from the joint is a minimum value while stress transfer of the joint is a maximum.